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Office of **ENERGY EFFICIENCY
& RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Waste Reduction Pilot: July 2020

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1. Save the Date for the Waste Pilot's Third Quarterly Call on Plastics Recycling: August 12, 2020

Save the date for the waste pilot's third quarterly call: **Wednesday, August 12, from 1:00-2:00 pm ET!** You can expect a separate calendar invite from us shortly.

The webinar will include a quick pilot update and focus on plastics recycling, featuring presentations from:



Plastics for a Circular Economy Report Released

DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office and Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) have released the [Plastics for a Circular Economy Workshop: Summary Report](#). This report summarizes the results of a public workshop co-sponsored by the two offices last year, which was held as part of the [Plastics Innovation](#)

Amy Costello, P.E., Sustainability Manager at pilot partner Armstrong Flooring

Jack DeBell, Recycling Program Development Director at University of Colorado Boulder

If you missed the first two quarterly calls, you can find recordings, slides, and transcripts on the pilot home page on the Solution Center [here](#). We've also streamlined the home page to provide easier access to other informative presentations and resources, so be sure to check it out.

2. Sprint, a T-Mobile Company, Shares Its Systematic Approach to Waste Management

Waste pilot partner Sprint, a T-Mobile Company, has published an implementation model on the Solution Center detailing its systematic approach to waste management. The partner's system provides business units with customized waste diversion solutions, testing the approach with a 4-year pilot program. The pilot improved the recycle rate from 23% to 46%, reduced utility spend by 25%, and resulted in \$1.95 million in savings and avoided costs. Click [here](#) to learn more.



3. Tip of the Month: Keep Bags Out of the Bin!

Plastic bags are thin and flexible and have a tendency to get snagged in machinery at the recycling facility, damaging equipment. To properly recycle, drop off at large grocery chains, home improvement stores, or retailers where collection bins are often provided for plastic bags and other “film” plastics.

As a partner in the [Waste Reduction Pilot](#), we are sharing updates, tips, and new resources with you at the end of every month. We welcome your thoughts and feedback. If you come across something you'd like to share with the pilot cohort,

[Challenge](#), a comprehensive DOE program to accelerate innovations in energy-efficient plastics recycling technologies.

The workshop report highlights discussions concerning the development of new plastics materials that are recyclable by design or biodegradable and ways to reduce existing plastic waste. Specific topics included key challenges and opportunities facing biological and chemical recycling, composite recycling, flexible packaging, end of life consequences, and redesigning a recycling system for the future. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Reminder: "Early Best Practices" Slides Available Online

Waste pilot partners Volvo Group North America presented on its efforts to self-certify facilities as "Landfill Free" and Shorenstein Properties shared details on its sustainability and waste reduction efforts during the "Early Best Practices from the Waste Reduction Pilot" session at the Virtual Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit in June.

If you missed it, or want to learn more, you can find the session recording, presentation slides, and transcript on the Solution Center [here](#).

please let us know via BetterBuildings@EE.Doe.Gov and we'll do our best to feature it.

We are grateful for your support and participation in this pilot.
We hope this email finds you healthy and staying safe!

Sincerely,

The Better Buildings/Plants Team

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